

and other damages incurred in the days and weeks following the attacks.

Specifically, this emergency legislation will ensure greater stability in the industry by strengthening and expanding access to the Small Business Administration's loans and management counseling. By aiding small businesses in their efforts to meet payments on existing debts, to finance their businesses, and to maintain and create new jobs, this legislation helps entrepreneurs and their employees to remain productive and self-sufficient. This bill attempts to save valuable jobs and resources placed in jeopardy by addressing the decreasing availability of credit and venture capital afforded small businesses by traditional lenders and investors. In an effort to encourage new investment, this measure includes changes to two of SBA's main non-disaster lending programs put in place to facilitate borrowing and lending.

By providing incentives for loans and investment, this bill protects those small businesses directly affected because they are physically located in or near the buildings and areas attacked. Our hearts go out to the businesses and workers in this category, because on top of severe financial hardships, many in this category may have also suffered the loss of loved ones and co-workers.

The bill also targets small businesses directly or indirectly affected because they are suppliers, service providers, or complementary industries to any affected industry. This is the type of assistance that might help small businesses like the Galley Restaurant in the Benedum Airport in Bridgeport, WV. When the FAA shut down commercial aviation for several days in the wake of the attacks, business at the Galley just stopped. Likewise, the bill could help the Mountain State Travel Agency in Clarksburg, WV. In the days after the attacks, Mountain State has seen its business dry up to virtually nothing. It is my hope and belief that this legislation may help the Galley's owner, Beverly Bland, and Mountain State's owner, Maria Elena Oliverio, and the owners of thousands of small businesses in West Virginia and throughout the country, from having to close the doors of their small businesses.

Finally, the bill will provide assistance to small businesses in need of capital and investment financing, procurement assistance or management counseling. The incentives include physical and economic injury disaster loans, reductions in interest rates, and easier approval standards on Guaranteed Business Loans.

Small businesses across our Nation are in great need of economic assistance. The vitality of this sector is of crucial importance to our economy. This bill will allow thousands of working families the opportunity to maintain a reasonable standard of living,

and give small business owners the boost they need to maintain and hopefully grow their businesses.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE TO THE MEXICAN SENATE FOR ITS SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

Mr. DODD. Madam President, last week representatives of the Mexican Senate came to the U.S. Senate to meet with legislators and express their support for the U.S.-led effort against terrorism. Mexico has always been a close neighbor and friend to the United States, and the Senators traveled here to ensure us that, in this time of need, our friend and ally Mexico stands by us.

The delegation of Mexican Senators presented the Majority Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, with a letter from Diego Fernandez De Cevallos, the President of the Mexican Senate, which expresses the Mexican Senate's condolences in the aftermath of the tragic events of September 11th. That letter also contained a statement from the entire membership of the Mexican Senate commenting on the attacks and the unique relationship between Mexico and the United States. I think that my colleagues would benefit from seeing these comments in the RECORD.

At times like these every expression of support from our allies is important. However, given the special relationship between the United States and Mexico, it is even more important to see evidence that our allegiance is strong. These letters prove exactly that. I thank the Mexican Senate for their support.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter and statement from the Mexican Senators be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MEXICO D.F.,
October 2, 2001.

Hon. TOM DASCHLE,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Capitol Building,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR DASCHLE: On the occasion of the visit of a delegation of Mexican Senators to the United States, and in the name of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico, allow me to express to the people and to the Government of the United States, our profound shock and most sincere condolences with respect to the acts of terrorism perpetrated on September 11, 2001 against humanity itself.

It is truly hard to find words adequate to convey the sadness and anguish that all Mexicans feel at the loss of so many innocent lives.

As legislators there are many things we can do together with the U.S. and other Congresses to confront the barbaric threat of terrorism of any kind, as well as the harm that is caused by various forms of fanaticism.

We declare ourselves once again unequivocally in favor of peace, justice, and international solidarity.

I have asked the delegation of Mexican Senators who are visiting your Congress this

week to provide you with a copy of the statement which was made by the Mexican Senate on September 11 in response to that tragic act, which we also provided to his Excellency Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow so that it might be known to the American people and the Government of the United States.

Sincerely,
DIEGO FERNANDEZ DE CEVALLOS,
President of the Mexican Senate.

STATEMENT OF THE MEXICAN SENATE

September 11, 2001.

"The Mexican Senate wishes to express to the Government of the United States of America as well as to all Nations, its most profound sympathy and deep indignation relative to the barbarous acts which today have offended the entire world.

"The Mexican Senate calls upon all men and women of good faith to prevent this tragedy from escalating into an interminable blood bath.

"Let us bring together the governments and peoples of the world to work together to guard against further harm; to scrupulously respect human rights throughout the world; and to build together a peaceful, dignified, and just world for all mankind."

THE U.S. ROLE IN OCEAN EXPLORATION

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, as we contend with the threats of global terrorism and our national sorrow in the aftermath of September 11th, we must focus on the accomplishments, ideals, and spirit that make America great and look to the future with a renewed sense of resolve and hope. As we engaged in exploring the American continent in the 19th century, and the far reaches of space in the 20th century, we must welcome, in this new century, the challenge of exploring our oceans, the last uncharted frontier. Oceans make up 70 percent of the earth's surface, yet we have characterized less than ten percent of the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone. Within our EEZ, the United States has jurisdiction over more submerged lands than terrestrial lands. Newly charted research voyages and state-of-the-art underwater technology give us the tools we need to make new discoveries to aid us in better understanding this underwater world.

My focus on ocean exploration is timely because the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration celebrated the culmination of two voyages of discovery in Charleston, South Carolina, on October 1, 2001. The "Deep East Expedition" and "Islands in the Stream" projects represent two important steps in revitalizing our exploration of the oceans. Through these journeys, NOAA scientists and their partners are uncovering the ocean's secrets.

The "Deep East Expedition" sailed from Maine to Georgia to investigate the diversity of deep-sea coral beds and gas hydrate communities that may contain new energy resources. On a simultaneous timetable, "Islands in the